



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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27 November 2017


Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Angel Wong)

Dear Ms Wong,

**Follow-up to
meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Education
held on 3 November 2017**

In response to Members' request for supplementary information on specific issues at the meeting of the Panel on Education held on 3 November 2017, we provide the relevant information at Annex I and Annex II for Members' information.

Yours sincerely,


(Miss Sharon Ko)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Secretary-General, University Grants Committee
(Attn.: Mr David Leung) – w/encl.

**Approved Student Number Targets and Actual Enrolments
of University Grants Committee-funded Master of Philosophy Programmes
for the Past Five Academic Years**

In consideration of the nature of research postgraduate (RPg) education, University Grants Committee (UGC) does not set any student quota for UGC-funded Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programmes, but an approved student number target of UGC-funded RPg programmes as a whole for each university instead. Universities are free to deploy the student number targets and associated resources among the different disciplines in the course of student enrollment. Further, universities are allowed to enroll RPg students up to 40% over and above their respective approved student number targets.

The approved student number targets of UGC-funded RPg programmes by university in the past five academic years are tabulated as follows –

(full-time equivalent numbers)

Academic Year	CityU	HKBU	LU	CUHK	EdUHK	PolyU	HKUST	HKU	Total
2012/13	496	199	58	1 563	35	533	1 121	1 590	5 595
2013/14	520	208	64	1 534	39	560	1 103	1 567	5 595
2014/15	537	228	68	1 495	46	578	1 100	1 543	5 595
2015/16	552	242	67	1 480	50	581	1 093	1 530	5 595
2016/17	583	245	65	1 428	67	607	1 087	1 513	5 595

The actual student enrolments of the UGC-funded MPhil programmes by university in the past five academic years are tabulated as follows –

(full-time equivalent numbers)

Academic Year	CityU	HKBU	LU	CUHK	EdUHK	PolyU	HKUST	HKU	Total
2012/13	6	44	45	434	4	112	297	469	1 411
2013/14	3	30	49	418	5	104	338	455	1 402
2014/15	2	29	49	369	6	95	352	392	1 293
2015/16	2	32	39	386	9	81	340	340	1 228
2016/17	2	32	36	386	13	105	378	335	1 286

Note:

1. The above figures refer to those within normal study period (i.e. two years for a full-time MPhil programme and 2 full-time equivalent years for a part-time MPhil programme).
2. The number of RPg students in decimal places are all rounded to integers in this table. If the RPg students are financed by institutions using both UGC and external funds, they will be counted towards different sources on a pro-rata basis. Hence, figures may not add up to the corresponding totals due to rounding.

From the above figures, it can be seen that there were some fluctuations of number of MPhil students over the past five academic years which could be attributed to different factors such as student's personal choice. On the other hand, we note that, in recent years, the universities have put in place a mechanism to allow students of Doctor of Philosophy programmes to transfer to MPhil programmes and vice versa. Therefore, some students may have enrolled as PhD students at the beginning but eventually choose to graduate with MPhil degrees.

**Employment Information of Non-local Graduates
of UGC-funded Research Postgraduate (RPg) Programmes
for the Past Five Academic Years**

According to the Graduate Employment Survey conducted annually by the UGC-funded universities, the numbers of non-local graduates of UGC-funded RPg programmes who emigrated or returned to their country of origin and had full-time employment with usual working location in Hong Kong for the 2011/12 to 2015/16 academic years are tabulated below –

Academic Years	Total Number of Non-local Graduates	Number of Non-local Graduates responded to the Survey	Number of responded Non-local Graduates who Emigrated or Returned to their Country of Origin	Number of responded Non-local Graduates who had Full-time Employment with Usual Working Location in Hong Kong
2011/12	1 186	758	145	285
2012/13	1 260	767	164	141
2013/14	1 366	961	186	305
2014/15	1 457	1 019	181	379
2015/16	1 532	1 112	315	362

Note:

1. The employment information of graduates from full-time UGC-funded programmes in a given year is collected through the Graduate Employment Survey which is conducted annually by the UGC-funded universities with a time frame up to December of the same year. Graduates covered in the Graduate Employment Survey refer to the students graduated from the year in which the Survey was conducted.
2. Apart from the two mentioned categories, the responded non-local graduates may have engaged in full-time employment without specifying the working location, pursued further studies in Hong Kong, become unemployed/underemployed, or not seeking employment.
3. Information for the 2016/17 academic year is not yet available.

Non-local students who have obtained an undergraduate or higher qualification in a full-time and locally-accredited local programme in Hong Kong may apply to stay/return and work in Hong Kong under the “Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates” (IANG). On the other hand, for any international city, having overseas elites who have a good understanding of and have established ties with the city would be beneficial in tangible and intangible ways. Thus it is still beneficial for Hong Kong, being an international city, if the non-local students of UGC-funded RPg programmes decide not to stay in Hong Kong upon graduation. It should also be recognised that non-local RPg students have been contributing to the higher education sector by propelling research development as well as being the teaching assistant / tutor of undergraduate students during their course of study in Hong Kong.